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SCIENTIFIC FORCES TO STAMP OUT DISEASES

(Continuation of Story on Front Color Page.)

way a mild infection is created, and it, in turn, develops immunity.

Submission to the open air as a treatment for tuberculosis is as old, almost, as the hills. Away back in 1830 an open-air sanatorium was established in England. Germany next came into line with sanatoriums in the Black Forest, and later the great sanatorium at Saranac Lake was established by Dr. Trudeau.

In all of these sanatoriums, however, reliance was placed solely upon ordinary medicines and the open air. The system of open-air treatment now in vogue throughout America originated with Dr. Flick.

"There is no real specific for consumption," Dr. Flick advised the physicians and the people, "all you need is good sense. A doctor may relieve faulty heart action, or bad digestion and a dozen other ills that stand in the way of recovery from tuberculosis; but diet, nature and a strict regard for discipline must do the rest."

It was to put this more than theory into practice that an open-air sanatorium was established at White Haven, Pa., under the direction of Dr. Flick. There every moment in the life of a tuberculosis sufferer is carefully supervised, and he is given particular things to eat and to drink and is obliged to take a certain amount of exercise.

So great was the work, so astounding the cures wrought at the White Haven Sanatorium that the attention of Henry Phipps, the Pittsburgh millionaire, was called to it. He promptly founded and endowed what is now known as the Phipps Institute, in Philadelphia, and put Dr. Flick at its head.

The work of the Phipps Institute is national. Under the direction of it no fewer than thirty-one specialists are in the lecture field, and all of them are busy. Armed with lantern slides illustrating every phase of tuberculosis, and capable of giving instructions as to the best way to treat it, they are answering calls for aid from physicians and laymen in every section of the United States.

In the campaign against tuberculosis as in all other great works, exceeding strength lies in organization. Not long ago the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis was formed. Its members are divided among no fewer than thirty-eight lesser associations in nineteen States and Canada.

Every association has in active operation one or more open-air sanatoriums. Altogether there are no fewer than 130 institutions in the various parts of the United States, containing 8,306 beds, for the exclusive treatment of tuberculosis patients. Among bigger institutions of this kind are sanatoriums at Asheville, N. C.; Saranac Lake and Liberty, N. Y.; Brattleboro, Vt.; Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colo.

Several sanatoriums have been established at Los Angeles, Cal., and still others at San Diego. Only recently the California Legislature endowed a sanatorium, to be established in the Mojave Desert, in that State. For the treatment of consumptive sailors, the United States government is conducting an institution of the same kind at Port Stanton, N. M.

A number of municipalities are taking up the treatment of consumptives as a special work. Included among these are New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston. In this regard New York is undoubtedly ahead. Not only is it endeavoring to educate the dwellers of its tenement houses with the disease, but it means to combat with the disease, but it registers every case discovered in them, and watches it carefully. If the patient is destitute he is provided with the proper food and made ready for treatment at a sanatorium. Moreover, the house in which the case is discovered is fumigated, and the treatment is continued.

Nothing is able to prove the efficiency of the work being done so conclusively as statistics. As the modern battle against tuberculosis had its origin and is further progressing in Philadelphia than anywhere else in America, that city probably provides the best example.

In ten years the death rate from tuberculosis in Philadelphia has decreased at least thirty-three per cent. In 1883 the death rate from diseases which were diagnosed as tuberculosis was 3.2 per 1,000 of the inhabitants. Last year it was 2.2 per 1,000.

Since 1887 the death rate from diseases which appeared under other names, but which still undoubtedly were tuberculosis, has been reduced from 3.6 per thousand to 1.6 per thousand.

One other fact is still more encouraging. It is now only about fifteen years since the real work of combating tuberculosis was begun. If the preventive measures taken in the past fifteen years were greater than those taken before, it is just, in theory at least, to assume that the death rate in the class born during that period should be lower. In 1887 the death rate from diseases possibly tuberculosis, in children under fifteen years of age, was 5.6 per thousand. In 1903 it was 2.8 per thousand. Since 1900 it has decreased from 3.8 to 2.8, or just about one-third.

Furthermore, the country is just beginning to be aroused. In 1904, according to the progress was out of all proportion to that of only a year or so before, and it is increasing at a rate almost impossible to compute. The end of the great white plague, he and other eminent members of the medical profession believe, is almost at hand.

INSIDIOUS and malignant as is the increase of pneumonia, it is less so than that of a rival, active and almost as terrible, in cancer. More than one hundred different forms of this disease are now admitted to exist.

And, curious to state, physicians say cancer finds a most efficient ally in no other than the victim himself. Whence it comes or why, he does not know, but he jealously guards the fact of its presence until all hope is lost.

It is probable this fact more than any other, doctors believe, that is accountable for the great wave of cancer that is sweeping over the world, drawing the concentrated attention of physicians as able as the ones enlisted in the great war upon pneumonia and tuberculosis.

Statistics carefully compiled in seven big cities—New York, New Orleans, Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco and Baltimore—show that in 1871 cancer claimed on an average each year no fewer than 35 victims per 100,000 inhabitants; in 1880 the number was increased to 50 per 100,000 inhabitants; in 1893 it was 63; in 1900 it was nearly 70; to-day the figure is approximately 75. If the progress of cancer is not stayed before, it will claim in death that year no fewer than 80 persons out of every 100,000 persons in the seven cities.

Cancer seems to thrive best in certain belts. For instance, on the Pacific coast the mortality at the present time is 51.9 per 100,000 inhabitants. In the timbered land of the Northwest it is approximately 47; in the northeast United States and Canada, present mortality of 45.5, while the Central West, prairie country, sacrifices 43 out of every 100,000 per year. In the North Atlantic States the yield is a trifle under 22; in the South Atlantic, 18.7, while along the Mississippi it drops to 11.3.

In Europe the situation is no less serious than here, Prussia, Holland and

Norway showing an increase of 30 per cent. in cases.

All over the world eminent physicians, with eyes glued to microscopes, are frantically endeavoring to establish the real cause of cancer and to effect a positive cure.

From Heidelberg, in Germany, comes the news that funds for a great hospital, the only one in Europe devoted exclusively to the investigation and treatment of cancer, have just been donated there. The German Society for the Study of Cancer is to aid in the work.

Russia has appropriated 750,000 rubles for study of the disease.

In England the National Cancer Society is alarmed and hard at work.

At Harvard College, in this country, a fund of \$100,000, bequeathed by the late Mrs. Caroline Brewer Craft, is being used to defray the expenses of cancer research. At the same time, Dr. E. H. Nichols, in charge of the laboratory work, admits, has accomplished little more than to explode popular theories as to the disease.

Under the will of the late Collis P. Huntington, the income of \$100,000 was bequeathed for the investigation of cancer in New York city. Within the last year a laboratory has been established with Dr. J. W. C. Hunt, professor of surgery at the Memorial Hospital in New York city also the battle against cancer is being waged.

In Philadelphia the American Oncologic Hospital, the only one for the exclusive treatment of cancer in America, began its work under the direction of Dr. G. B. Pettibone Massey only a few months ago.

Individual laboratories and individual physicians are at work upon research throughout the land. In New York Dr. Robert H. Lauder, professor of surgery at the Roosevelt Hospital; Dr. H. C. Coe, Dr. William B. Coley, Dr. George F. Shrady and Dr. Henry P. Loomis, all authorities so far as authorities at present go upon cancer, are working in Baltimore, and eminent medical men as Dr. William S. Thayer, Dr. James Bosley, Dr. C. Hampton Jones and Dr. W. Chambers are devoting their attention to the disease. Cornell University is having a laboratory of Dr. Burton H. Burton and Professor R. August Wittmann. And these are only a few of the vast army engaged day by day.

Probably the leader in the research, and surely the most successful up to date, is Dr. J. W. C. Hunt, of the Gratiot Laboratory, of Buffalo, N. Y. Under the direction of Dr. Park, and in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties, Dr. H. R. Gaylord and Dr. H. A. Clowes have been studying cancer at Gratiot since 1899.

Beginning with vegetable and the lower animal life, cancer has been traced steadily and unswervingly by them up to man. Only a few weeks ago, through their efforts, the first information as to what is really believed to be the cause of the disease and its infection was announced. It is due, the experts in Buffalo assert, to none other than a living parasite, which lives and thrives in the human system, and which a serum will destroy.

In the experiments by which such enlightening results were attained, Dr. Gaylord and Clowes, the courtesy of Prof. C. O. Copenberger, of two of these animals, infected with cancer, were obtained. Inoculation with serum secured from other, and therefore healthy, white mice developed cancer. They in turn, introduced it in still others, until a sufficient number for practical purposes were at hand.

The cancer developed in mice, microscopic examination established, is identical with the cancer found in man. The task of isolating and proving the organism which produced cancer in the mice was then begun. Under the microscope of Dr. Gaylord true parasites at last lay revealed.

But the experiments did not stop there. If infection from a mouse suffering from cancer produces cancer in another mouse, why would not an antitoxic serum destroy that growth? Sure enough, it would. A number of inoculated mice were cured.

It was ascertained also, by the experiments that, while the germ of cancer is communicable by personal contact, it is not transmissible through the air.

Feeling assured that they are not only able to produce cancer, but to cure it as well, Dr. Park and his associates propose to begin soon as possible direct experiments upon man.

While Dr. Park, Dr. Gaylord and Dr. Clowes are doubtless the first to establish what is believed by so many to be the real cause of cancer, and probably the first to produce a cure, they are not the first to effect a cure. In its early stages, medical men agree, some varieties yield readily to treatment. The knife, the X-ray, the violet ray, liquid air and radium have all proved effective, but only to a limited degree. Moreover, the use of any one or more of an experiment—a serum in the dark, so to speak.

In spite of the many agencies already at work, the crusade against cancer is hardly yet begun. In a few years it will have developed, scientists say, to a point hardly at present believable.

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